

Running Away

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Summary: Lily has been missing for three months and no one knows what's happened to her. Her disappearance has begun to tear the whole of the ED apart and then Ethan suddenly goes missing as well.

1. Chapter 1

**I got this idea after listening to the song 'Wrap Me Up' By Leddra Chapman. It was LillyMayFlower who suggested that I listen to the song in one of her stories so if she's reading this, just to say that it is a beautiful song and I've had it on repeat for the past couple of hours. The lyrics are lovely. **

Well, I guess I've had this story idea in my head for a while but the song has inspired me to write it. I really hope you all like it and please let me know what you think in a review x

I'm actually writing this story whilst listening to the song so it may be a bit more emotive than my usual writing :-)

Chapter One

The woman in the photo looked happy. Of course that was way before everything went wrong for her. Her hair was tied up in the usual ponytail, her ears had been made to look pretty with a small pair of silver studs and she was dressed in a smart black suit. They'd had trouble to find a normal photo of her, a photo where she wasn't wearing her hospital scrubs. The police had said that a work photo wouldn't be much use to them, as she was most likely wandering the streets in her own clothes.

Ethan Hardy had no idea what had gone wrong for her though. She was an amazing doctor with an amazing future ahead of her and he knew for a fact that Connie was even considering a promotion for her. Lily Chao was a private person though, she never did talk about her

feelings but obviously leaving everything bottled up had led to her sudden disappearance.

A single tear trickled down one side of his face but he didn't even attempt to stop it. He just allowed it to fall freely and land on the newspaper clipping with a gentle tap. The tear separated in two so now it was as if Lily was crying, not him.

He wished that he'd told her his feelings when he had the chance. Things hadn't worked out for him and Honey but it was only because she simply wasn't the girl for him. Lily was the only one who he could have a proper medical talk with, she was the only one who wanted to sit and watch foreign movies and had a good understanding of them afterwards, she was the only one who read the same kind of books as him and she was the only one who truly understood him. She was his soulmate. Of course he had no idea whether she felt the same way or not and he knew that if she ever returned, he would gather her up in his arms and kiss her until the clock struck midnight.

He hadn't been himself since she disappeared and that had been for 12 weeks, 90 days, 2,160 hours, 129,600 minutes and 7,776,000 seconds. In other words, three months. He'd felt tired and depressed in the mornings, he'd slept in and missed breakfast on more than one occasion and he'd been arguing with Cal a lot more than usual. Cal had no idea how bad he felt, no one did, because he didn't like to talk about it. He knew that if he did, he'd just start crying hysterically and he was scared that if he did that, he would never stop.

Connie had sent him home the other day but instead of going home, he'd gone and sat in the park by himself. It was the school holidays so the park was full of happy and hyperactive children and he thought about how simple those times were. They had no worries, no problems, they were just kids and they were loved by everyone.

Ethan wondered if Lily was even still alive, if she was lying dead in a ditch somewhere. He didn't want to think about that though so he tried and tried to get the image out of his head.

The police hadn't been much help. Lily wasn't a child and she wasn't classed as a vulnerable adult, she was just a normal person who happened to have gone missing on the night of April the 13th. Because she'd been missing for so long, they had practically given up the search which annoyed Ethan increasingly.

Ethan sighed heavily and ran his hands down his face, pinning the article back onto the bulletin board. Lily was smiling again, right at him, as if she was reassuring him. Feeling comforted, Ethan nodded and made his way back to the staff room to see Alicia making herself a coffee.

"Oh, hi," she whispered, giving him an awkward smile.

"Hi," he whispered back and went to stand beside her. "Okay?" He asked at the exact same time as her. "No, uh...You go first."

"I was just going to ask if you were okay," she said.

"No," Ethan said truthfully. "Wh-What about...You?"

"I don't know," she answered. "Why do you think we're still upset? I mean it's been three months with no news, shouldn't we be getting over it and moving on?" Ethan gave a tiny shrug. "I'm sorry," she apologised. "I didn't mean to upset you."

"No, you're right," Ethan sighed. "We should be moving on. Sometimes it's a lot harder than it seems though. You didn't know Lily as long I did, Alicia so you can't make that judgement."

"My coffee's done," Alicia said, clearly making an excuse to leave and she had a small sip from her mug. "I'll see you later, Ethan. I know it's hard but if you ever did want a chat, you can always speak to me. Lily may have hated my guts but I really looked up to her."

She gave him a warm smile and exited the staffroom with her coffee in her hand. Ethan leaned back against the counter and folded his arms protectively across his chest. He'd almost become mute since Lily went missing, hardly said a single word to anyone and Connie had been debating whether to book him off work or not. Ethan didn't want to be booked off though, his job was the only thing that was keeping him together and that was what he needed.

Ethan remembered how it had all happened. He had to admit that Lily had been feeling extremely stressed for a few weeks, on and off. On April the 13th, she was at work and everything was fine but the next day she never turned up and she didn't even ring in to say that she was going to be off. Connie had tried calling her but she never answered so Iain and Dixie headed out in the ambulance and went round to her house. She wasn't at home.

Since then, there hadn't been anything from her and Lily had been reported as a missing person.

So no one ever knew what really happened, whether someone had taken her or not. Ethan had been desperate, wishing that one day he'd arrive at work and Lily would be there to welcome him with open eyes. It never happened though and the more Ethan's wish faded, the more he wanted to stay at home and sulk.

Lily clearly wasn't coming home any time soon and the police were sure to give up searching at some point.

Ethan would have to go out and look for her by himself.

**So I hope the first chapter lived up to your expectations. I've updated so much today, mostly because work has been really quiet. I had a phase of not updating my stories as much but my mental health has been pretty bad lately. I've been really down and I just haven't been having any motivation to write. **

I'm hoping to get some stories finished and some new ones posted soon though and I'll try and update as much as I can. Also, good luck to any of my readers who have GCSE's this year. Go on and nail them :-) x

Please let me know what you think of this story in a review. Thank you x

2. Chapter 2

CharieK: Thank you and I may take you up on that offer. If you need a chat, you can always message me as well. I'm happy to listen. Thanks for your review.

CBloom2: You'll soon find out.

LillyMayFlower: Thank you and it's a lovely song, I'm glad I listened to it :))

**Sorry for the long wait in an update guys. Here's the next chapter for you all. **

Chapter Two

Ethan stood at the side of the road waiting for the green man to appear. He was going in a completely different direction to Holby City so he prayed that he wouldn't see any of his colleagues in their cars, then his plan would be automatically ruined. He'd had to leave super early before Cal was awake so that he wouldn't get suspicious or see his packed bag. He didn't want to think about Cal's reaction when he found the handwritten note that Ethan had left for him. He sniffed and looked back up at the traffic lights. The green man had appeared and a woman in a little, red KA had stopped at the crossing. Ethan thanked her politely and crossed the road.

He hadn't really planned it through properly, he had no idea where Lily was or could be. She hadn't been responding to anyone's messages and she could have even travelled halfway across the country. He thought about turning round and heading back to Holby but he'd then be known as a failure.

It was eight o'clock and all of the coffee shops and cafes had begun to open. The smell of bacon and sausages wafted throughout the streets and he remembered that he hadn't actually had anything to eat that morning. He stopped outside a small cafe and decided to have some breakfast before carrying on with his journey.

"Can I help you?" A woman asked him, as he opened the door and walked in.

Her name-tag read 'Bethany.'

"Um...Yeah," Ethan replied and fiddled with his glasses. "Table for one please."

"If you'd like to take a seat," Bethany said. "And I will be over to take your order. You look like you're heading somewhere nice, are you going far?"

She must have noticed the backpack that Ethan was wearing. He just sat down at the nearest table to the door and shook his head, sliding the bag off of his back and placing it on the floor beside him.

"Just...No where in particular," he sighed.

"I see," Bethany giggled. "Can I get you a drink to start with?"

"I'll just take an Apple Juice please," Ethan said and picked up the menu.

Bethany nodded and walked away to get his drink. Ethan realised that there were only two other families in the cafe. One of them was a couple with two small children who were both sitting quietly with some crayons and colouring sheets. The other was an elderly couple who looked like a pair of regulars who came to the cafe every morning.

"Day off work?" Bethany asked, coming back over and placing the Apple Juice in front of Ethan.

"Yeah." Ethan nodded, taking a small sip. "Something like that."

"Where do you work?" She questioned him out of interest.

"Holby City ED," he told her. "I'm a doctor there."

"Tough job," Bethany said. "You're lucky you managed to get a day off. I wanted to be a doctor when I was younger but I always fainted at the first sight of blood, it seems to be a very rewarding job." Ethan nodded in agreement. "I suppose waitressing isn't too bad anyway. I thought you were a doctor when you first walked in."

"Did you?" Ethan raised his eyebrows.

"Yeah," Bethany said with a smile. "You're cute." Ethan's eyes widened but he stayed silent, unsure of what to say. "Anyway, what can I get you?"

"I will have the full English breakfast, thanks," Ethan ordered, pointing to it on the menu.

"Good choice," she said, writing it down in her notepad.

"Do you um...Do you fancy joining me?" Ethan asked, gesturing to the empty chair opposite him.

"Sorry, I have to work," she said. "But you still haven't told me where you're going. Are you an undercover policeman or something? Do I need to be on my best behaviour?"

"Are you...Are you flirting with me?" Ethan chuckled. "But no, I...I'm trying to find my friend."

"Your friend?" She asked, ignoring his question. "Where have they gone?"

"I don't know," Ethan said. "She's been missing for ages, three months in fact. Lily Chao, you might have seen her name in the papers."

"Yeah, I have," Bethany said and sat down in the empty chair so that she could talk to him. "I'm sorry, I didn't know that you knew her. Was she your girlfriend?"

"No." Ethan shook his head. "We worked together. The police are close

to dropping the case though, everyone thinks she's dead and I...I just want to find her and make sure that she's safe and sound."

"I don't blame you," Bethany said.

"You haven't seen her, have you?" Ethan asked. "I know it's a long shot but...She hasn't come in here at all, has she?"

"No," Bethany whispered. "Sorry. What's your name by the way? You know mine," she said, gesturing to her name tag.

"Ethan," Ethan introduced himself. "Ethan Hardy."

"Well, tell you what Ethan," she said. "How about you give me your phone number and if I see your friend, I'll contact you straight away. Does that sound good?" Ethan nodded. "Great, I'll go and get that breakfast for you and then you can be on your way. I won't want to keep you too long."

The food was only a twenty minute wait and when he was finished, Bethany came and took his plate away for him. Ethan ordered another drink and when he was the only one in the cafe, Bethany decided to sit and chat with Ethan.

"So is it just you who works here?" Ethan asked.

"Mainly." Bethany shrugged his shoulders. "There's the chef and a couple of people who come in and do the evening shift but I mainly do the morning shift, just me and me alone."

"It must get lonely," Ethan said. "The good thing about the ED is that it's always busy and there's a lot of you working there."

Bethany nodded.

"How much do I owe you?" Ethan asked.

"Don't worry about it," Bethany said. "It's on the house."

"Are you sure?" Ethan asked.

"I'm sure," Bethany said. "You can pay me with your phone number, like I asked?" Ethan nodded and took a pen from his pocket. He wrote it down on the napkin provided and handed it to Bethany. "Thanks. I meant what I said by the way, I will contact you if I see your friend."

"That'd mean a lot," Ethan said. "I just want her to be okay. We never really knew what happened to her."

"I'm sure she's fine, Ethan," Bethany said. "I'll let you get going. Keep in touch though, okay?"

"Definitely," Ethan said and stood up, slipping his bag back onto his back. "And um...Thanks for the breakfast, that...That was really kind of you."

"It's the least I could do," Bethany said. "I'll see you around Ethan Hardy."

"You too," Ethan said and he left the cafe.

Sighing deeply and looking out into the distance, he saw that it had begun to rain. He slid his hood up and stuffed his hands into his pockets before continuing his journey.

I hope you liked the chapter, let me know what you think x

3. Chapter 3

CharieK: Thank you very much :)

casualty lover: Thank you, you'll see Cal's **reaction in this chapter. Ethan is the only family Cal has so he's bound to be upset, bless him.**

Agirlwithgreatpotential: I wonder...

**CBloom2: Haha I liked writing that scene and no he doesn't in this story. I may add it into future chapters but at the moment he doesn't. **

**ETWentHome: Let's hope so and there will be more of Bethany. I'm glad you like the idea. **

Chapter Three

"Mrs Beauchamp!" Cal shouted, as he raced into the ED at full speed that morning. He shoved someone aside and ended up coming face to face with Charlie, he was wearing the same clothes as yesterday, his hair hadn't been brushed and Charlie could kind of smell that he hadn't brushed his teeth. "Where is Mrs Beauchamp?" He asked, waving a piece of paper in his face.

"In her office," the elder man informed Cal. "And she doesn't really want to be disturbed. What's the matter? Cal, you...You don't exactly look ready for work."

"No, I need to speak to her," he said through gritted teeth. "You don't understand, Charlie."

"What's happened?" Charlie whispered, keeping his hands on Cal's shoulders. "Because right now, Connie is extremely busy and like I said she doesn't want to be disturbed."

"Ethan's ran away," Cal whispered back and held the note out to him.

"What?" Charlie asked and took the note. "Sorry Cal, I don't really know how to say this. I've been struggling quite a lot lately and I've gone to try and find Lily, tell everyone else I'm sorry."

"See?" Cal said. "I need to speak to Connie."

"Hey, what's going on?" Lofty asked, walking over and noticing the serious looks on their faces.

"Ethan's gone," Charlie whispered, holding the note so that Lofty could read it.

"Oh..." He said, unsure of what to say. "Well...Maybe...Maybe he's just writing to say...That he's changed his name, to sorry."

"I don't think so!" Cal snapped. "He's gone to find Lily!"

"But why now?" Charlie asked. "She's been gone for three months, why didn't he go any sooner?"

"I think he was hoping that the police would find her," Cal said and ran a hand through his hair. "That things would get better. He's...He's been struggling loads lately and he's hardly been talking to me at all. Now he's gone."

"Come on," Charlie said and handed the note back to him. "We'll go and talk to Connie together. It isn't as if he's ran away, Cal. I'm sure you'll be able to contact him and he let you know where he was going didn't he?"

"How could he have been so stupid?" Cal asked, but followed Charlie anyway.

"I'm sure he had good reasons," Charlie said and knocked on the door of Connie's office.

"Come in!" Connie called but she didn't sound too impressed. Charlie opened the door and Cal followed him inside. "Charlie, Doctor Knight. I'm a bit busy right now and you should know that Charlie, is it important?"

"Yes, actually," Cal replied and threw the note onto her desk. "Read that and you will soon see."

Connie sighed and scanned over the note. "Right," she said, when she was done. "So we're now down two doctors? Just wonderful."

"Is that all you can say?" Cal asked. "Ethan is now missing as well!"

"He isn't missing, Doctor Knight," Connie pointed out. "We know full well where he is. He knows that he's needed here but instead he's gone travelling, he should have just sat back and let the police deal with Lily's case."

"This is my little brother you're talking about," Cal said. "He isn't street smart!"

"He's thirty, Cal," Charlie reminded him. "You're talking about him as if he's a toddler."

"None of us know what happened to Lily," Connie said. "She could be anywhere and I hate to say it but...She might not even be alive. Where is Ethan going to go, huh? Where is he going to look?" Cal shrugged his shoulders. "You need to ring your brother and tell him to get back here."

"I...I did try ringing him this morning," Cal whispered. "He wouldn't answer."

"Well you didn't tell me that, Cal," Charlie said. "Why didn't you say anything?"

"I don't know," Cal snapped. "I was panicking and I...I didn't know what to say, my main concern was showing you that stupid note he wrote!"

"Well you need to keep trying to contact him," Connie said.

"Maybe, we should just leave the poor guy alone," Charlie said, causing Connie and Cal to turn and stare at him with wide eyes. "Don't jump down my throat," Charlie said. "I'm just saying that we've all been struggling with Lily's disappearance lately and Ethan has been the worst of all. Maybe...Maybe what he needs is a good break and maybe allowing him to...To get out and find out what happened is...Is that break. Connie, we can get cover staff in. Why don't we just leave the poor guy be and let him get on with what he thinks he needs to do."

"I can't believe you're actually saying these words," Cal said.

"Neither can I," Connie said. "It isn't that easy to get cover staff in, especially for two of our best doctors."

"Lily has been missing for three months," Cal said. "What if the same thing happens to Ethan? I need my brother, he is the only family I have!"

"He may not find Lily," Charlie added. "And he may decide to come back to Holby but with how his head has been lately, it's clear that he needs a break so why don't we just give him that and leave him alone?"

Cal hung his head and sniffed, trying his best not to cry. He faintly nodded his head, eventually realising that Charlie was right.

"Why don't you just send him a text?" Charlie suggested. "Asking how he is and telling him that you're behind him one hundred percent. At least then he'll know you're okay and he's more likely to respond."

"Yeah," Cal whispered. "I'll do that."

"Take a break, Doctor Knight," Connie said. "Just take a breather and then you can get to work. I um...I don't want you treating patients in this state."

Cal snatched the note off of Connie's desk and stormed out of the office, causing the door to slam against the wall and shake the room.

"Let's hope that Ethan finds Lily and brings her home for crying out loud," Connie said with her head in her hands.

All Charlie could do was nod.

End

file.